

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DLOS-06 L-03 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-10 RSC-01 COA-02 EB-11 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 CG-00 COME-00

DOT-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01 DRC-01

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TAGS: PBOR, UN

SUBJ: LOS: THIRD UN LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE CONVENES

1. SUMMARY. THIRD UN CONFERENCE ON LAW OF THE SEA (LOS) OPENED BY UN SYG WALDHEIM AFTERNOON NDECEMBER 3. H.S. AMERASINGHE OF SRI LANKA ELECTED CONFERENCE PRESIDENT BY ACCLAMATION AND CONFERENCE AGENDA ADOPTED ALSO ON NO OBJECTION BASIS. PORTUGAL PROTESTED PRESENCE OF GUINEA-BISSAU. END SUMMARY.

2. UN SYG WALDHEIM OPEND FIRST (ORGANIZATIONAL) SESSION OF THE THIRD UN LOS CONFERENCE AFTERNOON DECEMBER 3. SYG DWELT UPON THE NORMOUS AND COMPLEX TASKS FACING THE CONFERENCE AND STRESSED THE URGENCY OF RECONCILING THE INTERESTS OF STATES BEFORE ISSUES BECOME UNMANAGEABLE. HE NOTED POTENTIAL FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT INHERENT IN GROWING AND COMPETITIVE USES OF THE OCEANS AND DESCRIBED EFFORT TO LAY NEW LEGAL FOUNDATION FOR SEAS AS TEST OF UN'S CAPACITY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY.

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HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS.

3. AMERASINGHE WAS THEN ELECTED CONFERENCE PRESIDENT BY ACCLAMATION. IN BRIEF STATEMENT, AMERASINGHE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE AT CONFIDENCE SHOWN IN HIM, HIS COUNTRY AND HIS REGION. HE PORTRAYED LOS CONFERENCE AS ONE OF MOST IMPORTANT IN HISTORY OF UN AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, MAKING SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WITH JUSTICE, EQUITY, GOOD WILL AND COMPROMISE, HE CONCLUDED, CONFERENCE CAN SUCCEED IN ITS HIGH PURPOSE.

4. BOTH SYG AND AMERASINGHE PAID HOMMAGE TO FORMER AMBASSADOR PARDO OF MALTA AS PRIME MOVER IN CONVENING THIRD LOS CONFERENCE.

5. UGANDA, LEBANON. BULGARIA, ARGENTINA AND FRG, REPRESENTING REGIONAL GROUPS, ALL FOLLOWED AMERASINGHE'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH WITH SHORT CONGRATULATORY STATEMENTS. US REP (STEVENSON) ALSO EXTENDED CONGRATULATIONS. HE TERMED CONFERENCE MOST IMPORTANT SINCE 1945 UN CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF GROWING CRISIS IN LAW OF THE SEA AND POTENTIAL FOR DIVISION OF OCEANS AND CONFLICT IN ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT. AT SAME TIME, CONFERENCE HAS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE FOR EQUITABLE USE OF OCEAN RESOURCES AND STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND INSTITUTIONS IN GENERAL. HE DESCRIBED AMERASINGHE'S ABILITY TO LEAD AND DISCIPLINE CONFERENCE OF SUCH SIZE AS VITAL QUALITIES IN EFFORT AHEAD.

6. TURNING TO NEXT ITEM OF BUSINESS, AMERASINGHE SECURED PASSAGE OF PROVISIONAL AGENDA ON NO OBJECTION BASIS.

7. IN FINAL STATEMENT FROM FLOOR, PORTUGUESE DELEGATE INTERVENED TO STATE THAT PRESENCE OF PORTUGAL AT CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS ANY FORM OF RECOGNITION OF "SO-CALLED REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU", WHICH HE CLAIMED MEETS NONE OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF STATE. HE DECRIED FACT THAT SECRETARIAT SENT INVITATION TO GUINEA-BISSAU VIA CONAKRY, GUINEA.

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8. AMERASINGHE REPLIED WITH BRIEF REFERENCE TO FACT THAT GUINEA-BISSAU INVITATION TO CONFERENCE WAS BY UNGA AND WIELDING QUICK GAVEL, ADJOURNED MEETING TO ALLOW FOR NECESSARY REGIONAL GROUP CONSULTATIONS.

9. NEXT SESSION SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, DEC 5 AFTERNOON.
BENNETT

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